KCC 4809 (K-C 16,733) PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of Mark J. Beitz et al. Serial No. 10/039,238

Art Unit 1771

Serial No. 10/039,238 Filed December 31, 2001 Confirmation No. 7291

For USABLE SPLICE FOR A STABILIZED ABSORBENT AND METHOD FOR MAKING THE SPLICE

Examiner Norca L. Torres-Velazquez

January 16, 2004

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AMENDMENT B

JAN 1 6 2004

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, SIR:

OFFICIAL

In response to the Office action of October 16, 2003 please enter the following amendments reconsider the application in view of the following remarks.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.